(4) 1104. V. C. Augusty's tender was the lowest but the contract was given at the lowest rates to A. R. Joseph who has been the contractor for the previous years, in consideration of the fact that he conducted the business satisfactorily and also in view of the fact that the new contractor was a stranger to the department.

1105, 1106, 1107 } The lowest tenderer was given the contract.

(5) (1) By taking the rates quoted for the major number of articles of provisions that are most consumed by the staff.

(2) No.

(3) No.

(6)

	1104	1105	1106
(1) Rice 1st class	433 bags	538 bags	547 bags
(2) Do 2nd do	..	..	..
(3) Broken rice	..	..	13 bags
(4) Raw rice	..	....	
(5) Table rice	....	..	

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—(4) May I know whether the Tramway Engineer made inquiries about the status of the lowest tenderer? It is said that the new contractor was a stranger to the Department.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—No inquiry was made since he had no transactions in the Department before.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What is the necessity for calling tenders if the tenders are to go only to known persons.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Tenders were called for ascertaining the lowest rate. The Tramway Engineer is at liberty to accept the lowest or any other tender.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—In 1105, 1106 and 1107 it was given to the lowest tenderer. Was he a contractor of the Tramway Department before?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Yes.

Grants-in-aid—Universities.

124. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the grants-in-aid the Government were and are making to Universities outside the Madras Presidency;

(b) the reasons for it;

(c) are the Government now aware that the amounts indicated in (a) could render greater public utility if they were spent towards European and foreign scholarships to the members of the educationally backward classes of the State.

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(d) whether the Government are aware that the Benares University is a denominational institution with no overwhelming features to aid the educationally backward classes;

(e) the number of the subjects of the State in Benares University and the number of the backward members among them;

(f) whether they are aware that there was something amiss between the Government of India and the Benares Hindu University and the nature of it;

(g) how they have been influenced by the attitude of the Government of India in (f) with reference to our relations to the Benares University?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—A recurring annual grant of Rs. 6,000 is given to the Benares Hindu University.

To provide room for Cochin State students in the University.

Government do not think that greater public utility can be rendered by suspending the amount towards European and foreign scholarships to the members of the educationally backward classes of the State. The grant is paid to the Benares University to secure admission for Cochin students (including those of backward classes) to the Scientific and Technological courses of study and not to encourage the education of the backward classes alone for which other facilities and concessions are already given to them.

It is not a denominational institution. The latter part of the question does not arise in view of the answers to sub-divisions (b) and (c).

No statistics are available as no such information is published by the University.

No information.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—With reference to (e) may I know why the Member is not getting statistics when he pays a sufficient portion of public revenue, which is something in the way of waste?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—There was no necessity to take any statistics because we used to get applications from students and no complaint has been received from any one that admission was refused. In case such complaints come, we will consider and call for statistics. We only see whether admission was given there. The Member wanted to know the number of pupils who attend there. We have no information of the number who are there.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Do you think it advisable to get the number so that the Government may be in the know of the progress of the work there.

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Mr. I. N. Menon.—It is in the right direction to get the statistics.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—(f) Can you please get the information before the next session?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I think I can.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Thank you.

Disallowed Questions.

125. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the disallowed questions though not included in the Council Proceedings have any administrative value and if they have, what?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—No.

Representation—Labourers.

126. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they intend to nominate any member to this Council to represent the cause of the dumb millions of labourers of this State;

(b) whether they are aware that no member has been returned to this Council in the last election on the labour ticket;

(c) why no labour constituency has been organised by them in the face of their indulgent regards for the jenmies;

(d) whether they realised the double obligation on their part to recognise labour by nomination, with special reference to (c)?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—(a) No.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Government consider that no labour constituency is necessary at present.

(d) Nomination is being made after mature consideration of all essential factors and with due regard to unrepresented communities and interests.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know the conditions under which you say 'no'?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Katuri Ranga Ayyar.—It is a positive no.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—I want to know the conditions under which you gave this judgment of 'no'?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—No necessity for it.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—And the conditions under which you came to the conclusion that there was no necessity?

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